INDIANA LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM

GRANT RECIPIENT
TOWN OF CHESTERTON

YEAR
2006

COUNTY
PORTER

CATEGORY
EDUCATION/OUTREACH

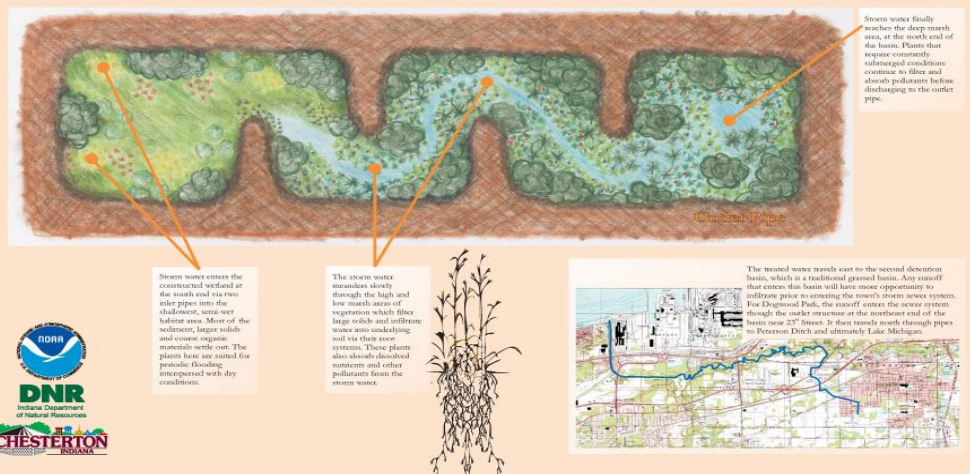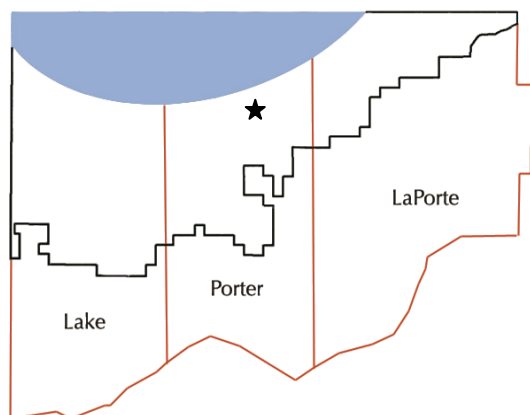**GRANT AWARD**
$4,200

LOCAL SHARE
$4,200

Dogwood Park Wetland Educational Project

The Dogwood Park Wetland Educational Project combined the efforts of the Town of Chesterton Storm Water and Parks Departments in providing a dual amenity for Chesterton: a storm water quality improvement feature and an environmental educational experience for the many visitors to Dogwood Park.

The wetland is primarily designed to improve the quality of storm water runoff from the newly paved recreational area on the west side of 23rd Street by decreasing the speed of the runoff, permitting increased infiltration and groundwater recharge, and providing enhanced pollutant removal from the water before its eventual discharge into Lake Michigan, the town's source for drinking water. These objectives were realized by regrading the original rectangular grassed basin to create a more meandering flow channel and planting the basin with a variety of deep-rooted native herbaceous and woody plants.

Other benefits of recreating a more natural wetland ecosystem on the site include an increase in biodiversity and a more aesthetically pleasing landscape for visitors to enjoy and learn from. In May of 2008 twelve members of Chesterton High School's Environmental Club plus their two instructors and two interested citizens provided a great deal of assistance on planting day, installing over one thousand individual plugs into the basin. Eight trees were installed in June at the wetland basin by Parks Department staff to complete the landscaping plan, and two educational signs were installed in October to finalize the project.

RESULT: Storm water runoff improvement along with improved aesthetics and educational signage.